

# **APPENDIX IV**

## **SCPP DRAFT ACTION PLAN**

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### **SCPP WORKSHOP**

### **SUMMARY OF ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS**

## WORKSHOP GOAL

To review and characterize seabird colony disturbance, incorporating the results of current baseline monitoring; to brainstorm ways to address human disturbance to seabird colonies; and develop long-term strategies for reducing human disturbance along the Central California coast.

## WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED

- Reviewed findings from monitoring efforts;
- Discussed possible regulatory and management strategies;
- Identified type of technical advisory committees needed to implement the program; and
- Identified types of seabird disturbances and prioritized outreach strategies.

## ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

### Group 1

**Question:** *What are the three most significant disturbances to seabirds?*

**Answer:** If geographic scope is the outer coast: Aircraft, motorized boats, kayaks, foot traffic (Pt. Reyes)

**Type:** Incidental to other activities, education can address these issues

**What message? How do we convey distances?** - Flags, Buoys, Markers?

**Critical messages:** Establish that a flush is not normal; it is a problem and has consequences to colony. In the short term, the seabirds can lose one breeding season. Long term or repeated disturbance can cause colony abandonment. Cumulative small impacts impart scale.

**Advice:** Base all actions, regs (laws, acts, site regs) on DATA. Get it if it's not current/available.

**Deliver messages several ways:** Advise of regulations; Educate on life history and species; Educate on historic site usage; Develop stewardship ethic; Use Multiple languages.

**Methods:** Videos, literature, visitor centers, field trips

**Explain what is normal bird behavior:** Give examples of not normal; give distance parameters; give alternative opportunities; tailor to different audiences, awareness levels

**To address fishing boat impacts:** determine closures, possibly seasonal; give supporting reasons; sometimes no option available: couple with easily read materials: state humane reason, state consequences/fines

**To Address Overflights:**

**Different user groups, different venues:**

- Civil airports: tie into GIS coordinates, pilots use
- Military/govt: different rules apply
- **"Flight Room" = airport center where flight plans are filed:** Use for messaging: "Bird strike" message may/not be valid, but single engine planes vulnerable w/ some bird species
- Be aware that "Heartland" pilots might not appreciate coastal issues.
- Form partnerships with USCG and military; befriend Op's Commander for continuity.

**Question:** *What management strategies should be explored (such as regulatory measures, buoys, best management practices, volunteer and/or seasonal closures, etc.).*

**Answer:**

Regulatory:

- Gap analysis of existing regs is needed.
- Review consistency of language (agencies) e.g. different definitions of "take"
- Hard to get multi-agency consensus on approach distances, etc., long and arduous process

- Most sensitive areas are in some agencies' jurisdiction, some cover land, some water, cross-deputize
- Enforcement staff: keep simple, enforce across jurisdictions
- Focus on worst abusers, prioritize need
- Ask the following questions: How easily can craft be identified? How easily can craft be traced to land? Where is monitoring occurring? What is being undetected?

Get the Data: 1) Compile known data sets (PRBO, State parks); 2) Scale activities to disturbance sources; 3) Monitor for effectiveness: (i.e. a decrease in disturbance or increase in colony productivity); and 4) Use data sets to identify the problem and tailor the message

#### Advice for Technical Advisory Committee

- Research/monitor approach
- Enforce current regs, develop new regs
- User groups to be consulted (buy- in), make Working Group, not TAC
- NEPA (public process) may be needed if changes are proposed (not for monitoring)
- May need permits for buoys (or exemption)
- Loopholes need to be identified
- You have to work with FAA/use nautical charts/Nobletech

**Question:** *How do you know that you are reducing disturbance?*

**Answer:**

#### Evaluate disturbance reduction

- Measure numbers, productivity and change in distribution
- Determine "cause and effect" or coincidence
- ID other contributing factors to success or failure
- Ecosystem approach- impacts of anomalies- zooplankton "bust" coupled with human impacts
- If ecosystem analysis is not feasible, go for simplest solution (reduced human disturbance)
- Productivity in sample quads
- Observed human disturbance

## Group 2

**Question:** *What are the three most significant disturbances to seabirds?*

**Answer:**

#### Aircraft:

- Outreach will be very different for each type: Agency/military/CG, Private Planes, Fixed wing vs. helicopters, Media helicopters and Film crews
- One solution can fix all: need to get on FAA map, need to get changed to "recommended"
- Other solution: outreach, no assist airman (NOTAM), electronic devices on board

#### Critical messages:

- Simple, highlighting valuable resources, using images that public will respond to
- **Distance recommendations need to be consistent** (does become difficult from political aspect)
- Make public understand WHY these seabirds are important

**Questions:** *What management strategies should be explored? What information gaps need to be addressed from a monitoring perspective?*

**Answer:**

#### Gaps and Needs:

- Gap: assessment of public knowledge (go to different interest group meetings, neighborhoods, etc.)
- Needs: 1) Uniform regulations: Fish and Wildlife Service, Sanctuary, Fish and Game; 2) White paper about all regulations (SCPP working group should review and comment); 3) Regulations on air nautical charts.

Public Process:

- Bring data to a public forum
- Involve public interest groups
- Field tours for non-science people i.e. policy makers, special interest groups

Other methods for public process:

- Speakers forum
- Observation decks, lookouts (pullouts)
- Docents specific for seabirds out in field, at observation areas, etc.
- Buoys, signage, changing/closing walkways (Get funds by starting an 'adopt a buoy' program)
- Hands on physical improvements

Technical Advisor Committee:

- Committee needed to make management recommendations
- Involve user groups in implementing management strategies- like Team Ocean in Florida Keys
- TAC's can help getting buoys placed
- Coordinated management needed with sub-committees for different issues
- Guidelines for responsible human behavior

**Group 3**

**Question:** *What are the three most significant disturbances to seabirds?*

**Answer:**

Most significant disturbances to seabirds

- 1) Kayakers and other non-motorized recreational uses (e.g. surfers, kitesurfers)
- 2) Aircraft
- 3) Motor craft (fishermen using lights plus general vessel traffic)
- 4) Foot traffic

Critical messages

- "You may disturb what came to see"
- Birds do more than fly- this is their home and they need space
- Your disturbance now may have impacts for years to come (e.g. eggs will break and chicks will be killed, can lose entire generation)
- "Only you can prevent colony loss"
- These rocks are special resting/nesting space
- "Make this rock a no flush zone"

Best venues

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| - Kayak association  | - Charter boat naturalist training  | - Print on brochures that info can be shared and available for websites      |
| - Schools- teachers and kids   | - Aquariums, museums, nature centers                                      | - Airshows: contact event organizers and provide info in registration packet |
| - Sport supply stores (REI) & rental facilities, e.g. pamphlet, DVD or CD with kayak | - Permanent signage   | - Flyers with fishing licenses/regulations                                   |
| - Equipment manufactures to print info   | - Docent programs at scenic pull offs                                     | - Fish and tackle shows  |
| - Online message boards (rec. fishing alliance)                                      | - Signs, buoys right at colonies  | - Boat shows   |
| - Harbors  | - Find out access points and launch sites, put up signage at these places | - People (volunteers on the water)   |

Approach media:

- |  |                                |                        |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Kayaker magazines                          | • Coastal living               | • AAA                  |
| • In flight magazines                        | • Sunset magazine              | • Outside              |
| • Airline videos of protecting our resources | • National Geographic Explorer | • Ranger Rick          |
|  |                                | • Western Outdoor News |

**Question:** *What management strategies should be explored (such as regulatory measures, buoys, best management practices, volunteer and/or seasonal closures, etc.)?*

**Answer:**

Management strategies

- Zoning by use, season, year, demarcate using buoys- set up appropriate regulations and policies
- Work with Fish and Game Wardens to do seabird patrols
- Monitoring effectiveness of management strategies by working with law enforcement (fast response)
- Agreements (MOUs) between agencies
- Provide contact and response list to field biologists, agencies and law enforcement
- Train biologists/managers/volunteers on the response process

**Question:** *How do you know that you are reducing disturbance?*

**Answer:**

Reducing disturbance

- Get Baseline data: Wildlife- systematic analysis of roosting/nesting loss, human use, human perception (e.g. professionally designed surveys)
- Record # incident reports
- Compare pre-post human perceptions
- Monitor # disturbances at colonies
- Determine if economic gain can be demonstrated?
- Use Telepresence- video surveillance – monitoring
- Perform Long-term seabird population studies, data
- Track oceanographic conditions (El Nino, upwelling strengths)
- Master plan needs to be developed (do this for all aspects, education, enforcement, etc.):
  - 1) Where are colonies- roosts
  - 2) Prioritize which colonies to focus on
  - 3) Disturbance minimization strategies
  - 4) For each colony, what are main disturbances
  - 5) Cost

**Question:** *What information gaps need to be addressed from a monitoring perspective?*

**Answer:**

Gaps

- Determine levels of disturbance and impacts of each disturbance type (need this for enforcement)
- Determine Cause-effect
- Address key motivators: Societal pressure, reward, punishment
- Pool knowledge (TAC)
- Inventory who was doing what related to disturbance
- Determine level of monitoring for each site- some may not be monitored at all
- Seek partnerships for enforcement

#### Group 4

**Question:** *What are the three most significant disturbances to seabirds?*

**Answer:** lights, noise, anthropogenic (pets. people, rats), planes and helicopters (fixed wing not as great), marine, foot traffic.

- Marine: kayak, party boat, recreational fishing, commercial fishing- squid boats
- Foot: relatively insignificant, can be most severe, effects may not be known

Who to target?

Helicopters- Coast Guard (needs to be annual), try to fly with CG operations officer, CHP, Military (unidentified), Private/commercial/media.

#### Message

- Publicize convictions
- Awareness of areas, sensitive species
- Guidelines  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, offshore, above 1,000 ft in air
- Birds react to sound, not only visual

Restrictions- other pilots have to abide, show by example

#### Venues

- Film boards
- TV stations/traffic (send annual letter)
- Coast Guard command
- Aeronautical charts
- Air shows- maybe develop poster
- When renew registration send letter
- Use power of collective multi-agencies in dealing with FAA
- Airports

**Question:** *What management strategies should be explored?*

#### **Answer:**

- CA equivalent is CA Coastal Monuments that manages offshore rocks- Partnerships (BLM wants to adopt what Oregon has done)
- Recreational Fishing Alliance, Coastside Fishing Club: need to target/work with large member base
- Use the monuments as a vehicle to connect groups/agencies
- Overlapping jurisdictions- need coordination
- F & G has obligation under MOU w/BLM
- Need to get started on cooperation and buy-in at the beginning of this 4-year plan
- Suggestion to draft letter by workshop participants- have something concrete stating intent
- GFNMS take lead, maybe using BLM's partnerships, MOU, MOA
- NGOs can play role of influencing and advocating

#### Technical Advisor Committee:

- Strategy needs to be developed by GFNMS using stakeholder committee, Call advisory committee not technical:
- Proposal to have one TAC: drawing from areas of expertise but having all in same group
- Invite user groups to be on committee
- Use people on the ground, public management

**Question:** *What information gaps need to be addressed from a monitoring perspective?*

#### **Answer:**

- Widely distribute violation report- as part of permit process
- Data is anecdotal now, needs to be published, best data set is Alcatraz: Difficulty is monitoring for rare events, need 100s of man hours
- Clearly establish the problem to convince the "doubters"/regulators/stakeholders
- Monitoring is key to enforcement- identify who is causing disturbance
- Gaps are colonies where there is no monitoring
- There are coastal sites that may be opened to public
- It's been 16 years since colonies were mapped
- Standardizing data collection during disturbances
- Data gap is estimation of distances that cause disturbances, lots of variables
- How does one estimate 1000 ft? Need to help with this (land features?)
- What are your priorities when documenting disturbance?